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HISTORY OF THE COWAN FAMILY

(And Grayson-Hixson)

Written by Alice Jane Peacock Cowan
(Mrs. William Burton Lewis)

While in the hospital with a
fractured thigh . 1946

Age 79 years

From #256, Mr. Hixon David Cowan

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HISTORY OF THE COWAN FAMILY

The Cowans came to Pennsylvania with the colonists sailing from a southern port in England. On the way, cholera broke out and only three brothers survived - Sam, William and George, about 12, 15, and 17 years of age. These three boys struck out into the wilderness of Pennsylvania, with an axe as their only weapon; they were attacked by a bear, which they killed and used it for food. Finally they reached the Ohio River. With the axe they cut poles and made a crude raft on which they floated down the river to the junction with the Tennessee. A storm overtook them and broke up the raft. William and Sam saved themselves but George was lost and they never saw him again. Many years later it was rumored that George Cowan reached Oregon. William and Sam made their way into Tennessee and "bound" themselves out as apprentices to a tanner, William was my father's grandfather. My grandfather was also a tanner by trade. He owned a farm near Red Hill schoolhouse and church. He was married to Cynthia Morgan, who came to that part of Sequatchie County from Kentucky to visit relatives. She was a descendant of Captain Henry Morgan, known as Black Horse Henry.

William and Cynthia became the parents of Seabird, Sally, Sam, Rheuben, Esther, William, Benjamin Franklin (known as Doc), and Joe.

Seabird married Betsy Ashburn, who lived at Red Hill

Sally married William Grayson, brother to Sarah Grayson, who married William Cowan, thus making their children double cousins, one of whom was Patrick Grayson, who was the same age of Samuel Houston Cowan (William Cowan's son.)

Sam (of this family) married Polly Majors and they moved to Hopkins County, Texas, in 1852, going in wagons drawn by four oxen. Some of their descendants live in that part of the state at the present time. (1946)

Joe married Sarah Ann Condra, who died in 1896. He came to Texas in 1898, and married Fannie Sams Pressley of Roanoke. He died in 1903, and is buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Roanoke. There were no children.

Benjamin Franklin (Uncle Doc) married Celia Condra and they had five children. Hixson Cowan visited one of their sons; John Cowan, at Whitwell, Tennessee in 1932.

THE HISTORY OF THE

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Polly Cowan married a Pryor, near Cheekville, Tennessee.

Seabird and Betsy moved to Texas in 1877, and settled on a farm near White's Chapel, at which place he taught school, later locating at Grapevine, where he was appointed Justice of Peace, which office he held until his death in 1885. He and Betsy are buried at White's Chapel. Three sons and four daughters were born to them; Mary, Cynthia, Virginia, Lawrence, Russell, Thompson and Mattie Bell. All are dead.

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THE FAMILY HISTORY OF WILLIAM AND SARAH COWAN

William Cowan was born 30 Sep 1832, in Marion County, Tenn. His parents were William Cowan and Cynthia Morgan Cowan. Sarah Caroline Grayson, daughter of William Henry Grayson and Nancy Hixson Grayson, was born 24 Jan 1832. They were married 24 Dec 1852 and went to housekeeping on a farm in Sequatchie Valley, between Walden's Ridge and the Cumberland Mountains, some twenty miles from Chattanooga, where they resided until 1878, where all of their children were born. They were engaged in farming until after the Civil War ended in 1865. Soon after this a mercantile company was formed, known as Peacock, Cowan & Company, the members of which were John A. Peacock, an Englishman who lived in Chattanooga, William Cowan, Patrick and William Grayson. They operated four general merchandise stores, extending from Pikesville to Cheekville along the river. For several years the business prospered. A great deal of merchandise was freighted by mules across Walden's Ridge to Chattanooga. Many articles of merchandise were bought at these general stores from the farmers and hunters both in the valley and mountain regions - butter, eggs, chickens, feathers, hides of all kinds, "ginseng" to be sent to China, Huckleberries, nuts, wool, etc. Sam Cowan and Patrick Grayson usually drove the teams to Chattanooga. On one such trip the wagon driven by Sam was loaded with eggs, butter, etc. The eggs were not in cases as now, but loose in boxes. Going down the mountain to the ferry the team ran away - one can imagine the condition of the eggs on reaching the market - already scrambled and buttered.

The store my father managed was a long building with a side room. It was down the hill, across the branch, from our house. We children spent our time running down the hill, across the branch and into the store. Behind a long counter shelves were built all along the walls, on which were many articles, such as calico, domestic, thread and buttons. Under the counters were barrels of sugar, salt, molasses, spices. In this store they bought eggs, butter, dried fruit of all kinds, feathers, live fowls, a conglomeration of produce that valley people had to sell. Also they had men's and ladies' hats, shoes, etc. About once a week the produce was freighted across the mountains to Chattanooga,



usually by Sam Cowan, Patrick Grayson and Johnny Burnet. Four mules were used until they reached the top of the mountain, then two were brought back to the barns. It took all day to reach the river and get ferried across and spend the night in the wagon yard. Next morning the produce was disposed of, merchandise bought and the return trip begun. They would come down the west side of the mountain about sundown. We would listen for the wagons because they made a lot of noise. They usually took three wagons to bring supplies for the four stores. One time when a large number of hats were on hand in the store and not selling well, Alice Cowan, age 10, and her cousin, Esther Grayson, were sent to a big meeting of the "Grange" to advertise these latest creations by wearing these hats. Most of the women in the region wore split bonnets. (Guess the hats were sold.)

A saw mill and a grist mill at Red Hill was run in connection with these stores. Credit was extended to farmers and some were unable to pay; bad investments were made - consequently the mercantile company went into bankruptcy in 1878. William Cowan lost all the money he had invested. In other words, he was "dead broke." That was the reason he moved to Texas, seeking to retrieve his fortune.

GOING TO THE WOOLEN MILLS

My mother took Margaret Grayson, her cousin, at the age of five years, and reared her as one of the family. I remember that when the sheep had been sheared and the wool cleaned, Margaret, now a grown young lady, and I, aged 10, rode horseback with a huge wad of wool tied in a sack, tied on behind the saddle, and went four miles to Ketchum's mill. We had to wait all day for the rolls to be made, arriving home just as the sun was going down. Margaret and Mother spun the rolls into thread, and wove it into cloth, which was made into clothing for the family. All sewing was done by hand, there being no sewing machines there at that time. In 1874, my mother got the first Wheeler & Wilson machine brought into the valley. She also had the first cook-stove in the valley.



MY GREAT UNCLE SAM COWAN

Great Uncle Sam Cowan lived in Victoria, Tennessee, about twelve miles from my father's store. He, like my grandfather was a tanner. He was tall, probably 6 feet four inches, with snowy white hair and must have been 80 years old in 1876, when he visited us. When we started to Texas we spent the night at his home before boarding the train next morning. So far as I know, he had only one child, named Marilda - we called her Rilda. She married Whit Phillips and came to Texas in 1877, and rented a farm near Keller. Later, in 1880, they bought a farm three miles from us in Tarrant County. It was not far from Double Springs. They had three children, Spence, the same age as Clinton A. Cowan; Pearl, and a boy whose name I cannot remember. Rilda died about 1890 and is buried at White's Chapel. Whit Phillips moved to Montague County, near Bonita, where his son Spence still resides.

Spence Phillips married Minnie Howard at Bonita and had four children. A daughter married Mr. Admire; Pearl Phillips married a brother of Minnie Howard and had four children. After he died, she married a man from Gainsville. Spence and his son-in-law came to visit in Roanoke in 1946. Jim Ealy, who came to Texas with us, moved to Montague County at the time Whit Phillips did, but I have lost track of him - think he married a widow with some children.



THE INFAIR DINNER

(As told by Alice Cowan, who was a guest, aged 7)

Joe Cowan, youngest son of William and Cynthia Cowan, married Sarah Ann Condra, 1873, at her home.

In those days it was customary for the bridegroom's family to give a dinner on the day following the wedding, to which all of the relatives of both families were invited. This was called an Infair Dinner. The bride always wore her "Second Day Dress." I well remember the long table which was all decorated and ready before the bridal couple arrived. At either end was a simulated tree about two feet high, trimmed with white paper which had been curled. All over the tree were yellow balls about the size of a walnut. These balls were made of cotton and dipped in yellow of egg. In the center of this long table was the prize centerpiece. It was a Log Cabin about two feet high, built of cakes baked in the shape of logs and the roof covered with white icing to resemble snow. The food was placed between these decorations and long benches served as chairs. The bride and groom sat at the head of the table and Grandmother Cowan sat at the foot. Grown people were seated at the sides but the children had to wait. As well as I remember there were three tables and I ate at the last one and by that time most of the food was gone. This is a true story of life in Tennessee in the 1870's.



GRANDMOTHER COWAN

Cynthia Morgan came to Tennessee from Kentucky to visit some relatives about 1820, as near as I remember being told by my mother. How or where she met and married my grandfather, William Cowan, I was not told. He died at the age of 69, leaving her with a family to rear - Sam, Seabird, Sally, Rheuben, William, Esther and Joseph.

After the Civil War ended, Uncle Seabird and his family came from Alabama to live with Grandmother.

When I was a child, Grandmother would come to our house and spend several weeks at a time. She wore a black lace cap in the daytime, that being the custom of old ladies at that time. She wore a wollen shawl about a yard square folded in a triangle. She smoked a clay pipe, and many times I have taken a coal of fire out of the fireplace to light her pipe.

As I remember, she did not ever help with the work, but she was not sick. She was of French extraction, about five feet, 3 inches tall, had black eyes, dark curly hair that was not gray when I knew her. She was what is known as dark-complexioned; from her I inherit my dark eyes and complexion. (I have a small tintype picture of her.)

After Uncle Joe married, he migrated to Kansas, taking Grandmother with him. She was dissatisfied there, and later they moved back to Tennessee, where she died at the age of 84, and is buried in Red Hill Cemetery.

MOTHER'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE CIVIL WAR

(Sarah Grayson Cowan)

As told to her Children

Sequatchie Valley was in the pathway of the Northern Army moving into Georgia and Alabama. These soldiers confiscated everything in the way of food and livestock wherever they could find it, even if they left the inhabitants to starve. Father was away from home with the Federal Army: mother was left to run the farm; make a home for herself and three boys - Henry, Sam and a small baby, James. The farm was at the foot of Walden's

Ridge, on a creek. It was here that the armies passing through from Chattanooga, going south, camped. Mother would hear the wagons coming down the mountain when four or five miles away; then she would get the boys and round up all the geese and chickens and pen them under the house. Many times the officers would be sitting at the table, eating, when they would hear the geese and chickens fighting under the floor. The chickens and geese were so well-trained that it did not require much running to get them in. The officers would laugh and pay off without disturbing anything. After the battle of Chicamauga, on Lookout Mountain, hundreds of wounded were brought across the mountain to this camping place. They laid the wounded on the long front porch; Mother made kettles of soup to feed them. She baked pies out of anything she had - cooking on an open fireplace, and sent them out to the men camped in the cornfield by Henry and Sam. The boys were good salesmen, disposing of the pies and hurrying back for more.

My father was home one time when the soldiers were making fires of the chestnut rails of the fences: Father picked up some of the rails and a soldier said to him "What are you going to do with those rails?" Father replied "You are burning them - why should not I?"

In some way, Mother could get tobacco. She would hide it in the baby's cradle, and when some officer would come in, she sold it to him. She really did a very good business, as Federal soldiers had real money - not Confederate.

Getting without salt, she rode horseback, holding the baby, 20 miles to Jasper, where she bought a few pounds at the Commissary for \$17.00 and carried it home, tied to the saddle. The meat supply was put into the attic above the bedroom. One time the soldiers killed a sucking calf of the only milk cow, and put the skin over the hames of the harness of the teams. The cow followed the teams off, bawling her loudest.

On one occasion Father slipped through the Confederate lines to see his family. He had a friend, David Ketchum, who was with the Confederate Army. Now this man, Ketchum and William Grayson were with the men who discovered Father. He was heading for the mountains on a fast horse, the soldiers after him, when Grayson,

who did not want to capture his brother-in-law, yelled out to Ketchum "Ketchum, it's Cowan." That made the sergeant order the soldiers to ride faster, but in some way, Grayson and Ketchum slowed them down and Cowan escaped. Ketchum and Father often had a hearty laugh over it. Incidentally, Ketchum was a cousin of my mother, his mother having been Patsy Hixson. The Ketchum family lived near Jasper, Tennessee.

A sadder event was the death of the baby James, at the age of two years. He became ill of pneumonia and no doctors were available. Neighbors helped Mother make a shroud out of her wedding dress, which was fine white material. Uncle Pleas made a little coffin and they buried him on the hillside near the spring. At this time Father was on Lookout Mountain herding horses and knew nothing of it for some weeks.

Mother lived through four wars - Mexican, Civil, Spanish and World War I. She taught knitting of socks, gloves and sweaters, doing much of it herself. She lived to have a radio, listening to the radio programs, as well as speeches, sermons and music. Her favorite hymn was "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There."

A TRIP TO CHATTANOOGA WITH FATHER

One morning about four o'clock, three wagons loaded with the produce collected during the previous week in the store, we started up the mountain headed for Chattanooga, twenty-five miles across the mountain. After reaching the top, we went across a series of flat plateaus and low valleys, around big cliffs, across some swift-running streams: finally, we reached the low bank of the Tennessee River. It was then almost dark. The ferry boat was in the south bend and the wagon train had to wait for it to return to the north bank. Finally we got ferried across to the foot of Main Street. There was a steep climb into the city proper. It was all wonderful to a child of nine years. Solid walls of houses on both sides of the street. We spent the night at a small hotel. The occasion of going at this time was to see a parade of some circus. Next morning I was perched high on a packing case in a big store. That was my first parade and to say it was thrilling is putting it mildly. That day a lot of dry

goods was purchased, along with about a dozen ladies' hats. On the third day we returned home, reaching there about dark. On the following Sunday my cousin Esther Grayson and I modeled these hats by wearing them to an all-day meeting at the academy, which would now be called a community center. This academy was a two-story building used for school, church, and meeting place for Masonic Lodge. The Hudson, Grayson and Cowan and Burnet children all attended this school.

THE COWAN FAMILY LEAVES TENNESSEE FOR TEXAS, NOVEMBER 1878

Sarah Cowan, accompanied by five of her children, Samuel Houston, aged 19 years, Alice 11 years, Hixon, 7 years, Ida, 4 and Clinton Anderson, aged 2, left Sequatchie Valley to join her husband, William Cowan, who had gone to Texas a month before to find a location for his family. Seabird Cowan, his brother, lived on a farm owned by B. Austin in the White's Chapel settlement, four miles from Grapevine, in Tarrant County.

Great preparations had been made for this trip - household furniture was sold; all clothing and bedding, including four feather beds, were packed in large boxes and trunks and was free baggage. Enough food for the family for four days was packed in boxes with rope handles. This family was going to Texas on an emigrant train.

Boarding the train at what is now Whitwell, they proceeded to Bridgeport, Alabama, where after waiting all day, the train was ferried across the Tennessee River. The only heat in this coach was a wood-burning stove in one corner. (Just in passing, will say that two young men, Anise Grayson and James Ealy, who were seeking their fortune, accompanied this family, making eight persons to be fed on the prepared food.) The second day passed, and the third, on through Tennessee, Mississippi, to the crossing of the Mississippi River at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. There was a long delay, waiting for the ferry boat. Hixon would run up and down the track - Alice after him - the mother was tired and sick. Poor little Ida had to lie or sit with two other people on a seat of the emigrant coach. Finally about dark the train was ferried across the river. Next morning was in Little Rock. Reached Dallas late in the afternoon. Most of the boiled ham, bread and chicken was gone, so the three young men foraged for food at the stations where the train always stopped once and sometimes twice. While on the way to Fort Worth, a Blue Norther hit. Anyone who has experienced a Blue

Norther does not need to be told how fast the temperature is lowered. The wind howled through the coach. The old wood stove in the corner did not put out much heat. Mother and four children huddled on the two plush seats facing each other. Finally, cold, sleepy and hungry, they arrived at Fort Worth. There Father met them in a covered wagon and they were taken up muddy Main Street to the McBride Wagon Yard near the Court House. They slept on blankets in a cold room which was part of the wagon yard.

Next day the trek was continued overland out by Birdville to Fossil Creek, where they stopped for lunch and to rest the team. Another wagon contained the huge boxes of household goods that had been on the train. After dark, they arrived at the Blev. Austin farm, about twenty miles from Fort Worth. These people, distant kinsmen, were hospitable. They took in the whole family and bedded them - some sleeping on pallets on the floor (Alice was one of these.) Next morning we went to Uncle Seabird Cowan's. He had a large family and a small house. A few days later, the family moved into a one-roomed log house, 16 x 16. It had two doors, one small window and a big fireplace in one end. For a kitchen, a log house 10 x 12 with dirt floor, about 30 feet from the other house. That is where all the meat, food of any kind, liquid soap, and dirty clothing was kept. Unsanitary, yes. The family survived. There was no water on this hill and water from a ground tank $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant was hauled in barrels on a horse-drawn sled. The father bought three cows, some pigs, hens, and the struggle for survival was begun. He bought cotton seed for 50¢ a ton to feed the cows. Being a new-comer and ignorant of the effect of cotton-seed on hogs, he fed them some. The hogs died - an awful loss. He tried to burn the cotton-seed - anyone knows it will not burn. Another calamity, no feed for the cows.

In the spring of 1878, Sam Cowan, Anise Grayson and Jimmy Ealy dug a well in the yard, finding water at a depth of 30 feet. A windless and bucket were needed to lift the water. Clothing had to be taken to the ground tank to be washed. Three horses were bought and a crop of cotton was planted on the Austin land. It was good fresh land, but only a fair crop was harvested. Anise Grayson and Jim Ealy went further west to try their fortunes as hired hands at farm labor - \$10.00 a month and board.

Sam Cowan took oral examination before the County Judge in Fort Worth for a State Certificate to teach school. He passed with very

few questions because he was much more intelligent than the judge. He was engaged as teacher in a one-room school house on the bank of Denton Creek, five miles north of White's Chapel. Walnut Grove was the name of this school district and remains the same 66 years later, only now the pupils of that district are carried by bus free to Roanoke, four miles west. All the small children went to school in the church building at White's Chapel, named after the Methodist missionary who preached and baptised once a month. Unle Seabird was the teacher. He and Aunt Betsy are buried in the cemetery there. A plain rough red rock marks their resting place. (Clinton A. Cowan visited the cemetery in 1946.)

A rather humorous incident occurred in this Cowan house in the summer of 1879. The Cowans being Cumberland Presbyterians, a Presbyterian minister from Chim's Chapel, some 12 miles north east, visited them, staying overnight. Mother was preparing supper in the outdoor kitchen. Ida, 5 years old and Clint, 3, were in the "big house" when he arrived, and Ida said to Clint "Kint, this is brother Donnie." the minister's name being Donald. Descendants of these Donals still live in that place, which is now called Lewisville, Denton County.

In the spring of 1880, another big crop of cotton was planted; it was very fine and would have made a bale to the acre, but an early frost got it, so that only 4 bales were picked when there should have been 50, and at 4¢ a pound.

Sam Cowan finished four months of teaching, went to Denton to study law in Judge Bradley's office; somehow got a license to practise and in the fall of 1881, went to Sweetwater, where his older brother Henry had a law office. In the fall of 1880, William Cowan with his wife and the four other children moved to the Jarvis Farm on the prairie, four miles west of Keller - had a four room plank house, a plank kitchen in the yard; had seven cows now, which had been bought with Mother's money received from her father's estate in Tennessee. Hired a boy, Jim Eaves, at \$15.00 a month and planted a big cotton crop - 1881 was a dry year - result, a complete failure (as told by Alice, now 14, who gathered the small heads of cabbage and boiled them with bacon skins for food.

The four children attending school at Boone's Point - the teacher was Will Nail, recently of Sequatchie College, Pikeville,



Tennessee, and a cousin of Anna Schoolfield. In the fall of 1881, William Cowan purchased 40 acres of land in the Cross Timbers with \$400.00 of Srah Cowan's inheritance from Grandmother Grayson's estate (she was Nancy Grayson, who died at the age of 84, and was buried at Burnette School House beside Henry Grayson, who preceded her two years.) This old cemetery was still being used in 1937.

The Cowan family moved to their Cross Timber farm. On it was a log house 18 x 18, which had two windows with shutters and a plank side room for kitchen, across an open porch, with steps hewn out of logs at either end, a very cool place in summer. There was a small bedroom also. They now had ten head of cattle, three horses, several head of hogs and there was a branch of running water fed by a marvelous spring. The children attended school at Sam's School House - it really was a good one - teacher school, taught by competent teachers, and many boys and girls educated there have gone places and made names for themselves in far-away places.

In 1877, John Schoolfield and wife, Jennie (Jane Hixon) with their ex-slave (belonging to Schoolfield family), "Rye" (Maria), moved to Abney Farm, ten miles west of Denton. They came in a covered wagon - or rather in a convoy of wagons - some of which stopped in East Texas. John Schoolfield's two sisters, Minnie and Annie, came on the train a few months later. Now here is the romance, Sam Cowan and Annie Schoolfield had been sweethearts when they both attended Sequatchie College in Tennessee. In 1877, on one occasion, as told by Alice, Sam was due to make a week-end visit at the Schoolfield home, some thirty miles from White's Chapel, where the Cowan family lived at that time. Sam had a new suit hanging on the wall of the bedroom. A polecat got under the house and the dogs chased him - result, everything was polecatted. Poor Sam! Mother took his suit out in the yard and covered it with some leaves and dirt in order to do away with the odor, which was partly successful. In two days, Sam went on his way courting. About this time, Minnie Schoolfield married Robert Walker, a newspaper man, and they went to Galveston. Later, Annie followed them. In the meantime, Sam had gone to Sweetwater and was engaged as a civil engineer. On April 24, 1882, Sam and Annie were married at Galveston. On the way back to Sweetwater, they visited the Cowan family, getting off



the train at Roanoke. Later they lived at Sweetwater, and moved to Big Spring, following the Texas and Pacific Railroad, which was being extended westward to El Paso. At Big Spring they built a home, and Sam was engaged in the practice of law. That country was the Frontier of Frontiers and prosecuting lawyers were in demand. He also did a lot of surveying for the state in the Pecos and Devil's River country. This surveying gang consisted of three wagons, one of which was a Chuck Wagon. Pecos River is noted for its muddy water. The cook stuttered badly, especially when drunk. Sam Cowan did not like the coffee and made complaint to the cook. He replied in this manner "Dammit, who can make coffee out of water so thi-thi-thick you could ch-ch-chaw it?"

One surveying expedition was started at Big Spring and extended to Midland, fifty miles west. Sam Cowan walked all of that distance with a rodman, and the wagons checked the measurements by a rag tied on a wheel - so many revolutions to the mile, or probably "vara", a Spanish term which is still used in Texas today. In that distance there was only a few feet difference in the measurements. Information from Robert Walker, who accompanied the party.)

In 1883, Minnie and Robert Walker moved to Fort Worth, where he was engaged as a printer on the Fort Worth Gazette, which was later the Fort Worth Record, later Star-Telegram. In 1890, they moved to Big Spring. There they purchased and published the "Pantograph", a weekly paper. In 1899, they returned to Fort Worth and ran a job-printing office. Later, he was Secretary for the Printer's Union. Minnie preceded him in death, and both are buried in Rose Hill. Bird Ames Walker, who was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1883, has been a teacher in the Fort Worth Public Schools for many years. She never married and occupies the home built by her parents at 814 Fifth Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas.

William Henry Cowan, oldest son of William and Sarah Cowan, was born in 1853. He married Edith Hudson in 1873, and in 1875, they went to Hopkins County, Texas, where his uncle, Sam Cowan, lived, having gone there by ox wagon in 1853. Minnie, their baby, was born in Tennessee and is buried there. In 1876, Henry went to Montague County where his mother's brother, J. M. Grayson, lived at Red River Station, which was a government post for protection from Indian raids, out of Indian Territory (later Oklahoma). Henry

Cowan then went to Breckenridge, where he established a law office and real estate business. He also had a sheep ranch, owning all the land which is now covered by Sweetwater Lake. The T & P Railroad extended westward over the plains "where the buffalo roams" and their bones made a pathway across the prairie to the west. At Big Spring the T & P made a division-point, half-way to El Paso: machine shops were established and water pumped from the Big Spring, which was an outlet of an underground stream. Two miles away was another outlet of this stream.

The West still claimed the interest of Henry Cowan. In 1891, he moved to Midland and became interested in mining in Old Mexico. In partnership with Sam Cowan, T. H. Burney and John Peacock - the Rosario Mine, which was closed later on account of the Revolution under Pancho Villa. After spending some years in Mexico, Henry joined his family in Nashville, Tennessee. His oldest son, Frank, born in Sweetwater in 1886, went to Arizona, later to California, there he died, leaving a widow and one son.

Leslie Cowan, born in Sweetwater, was an instructor at the last account in 1936, in agriculture at Columbia University in Missouri.

Henry Cowan returned to California in 1913, visiting his mother and other members of the family on the way; none of the family saw him after that, as he died in San Diego. Ethel Cowan, his daughter, was born in Sweetwater in 1883, moved to Mineral Wells, Texas about 1933, where she taught music. Her mother died there, was taken to San Antonio and cremated. Ethel left Mineral Wells, and none of the family has heard of her since. Thus ended the history of W. Henry Cowan and his descendants.

Sam and Anna Cowan became the parents of : Florence Sarah, born in Big Spring, August 14, 1884; Mable Perry, born May 6, 1889; and Helen George, born June 18, 1892. In 1893, Sam H. Cowan was appointed attorney for the Texas Cattle Raisers' Association, a position which he held for thirty years. He was later attorney for American Livestock Association, and Rice Growers of Texas, and became the foremost authority on freight rates in this country. His rate cases were tried before the Interstate Commerce Commission Court in



Washington, D.C. and he was offered an appointment to that court by President Theodore Roosevelt which he refused because he would have taken the place of a friend. His portrait now hangs in the well-known Saddle and Sirloin Club in Chicago, as a token of esteem in which he was held by the members, who are officials in the above organizations and packing companies.

Sam and Anna Cowan continued to live on the site of their first home in Fort Worth until the death of Sam on July 20, 1928, and Anna on January 24, 1936. Both are buried at Roanoke, Texas.

Florence Cowan married John William Scheuber on her parent's anniversary, April 24, 1911. Their son, Sam Cowan Scheuber, born December 12, 1912, graduated from the University of Texas (where his mother was a member of Pi Beta Phi) as a petroleum engineer. He served as a Captain under General Simpson in World War II. He married Jean Henderson Tupper and lives in San Angelo, Texas.

Florence Anna Scheuber married Andrew T. Davis of San Angelo, who was a Lieutenant in World War II. They live in Williams, Arizona.

Mable Perry Cowan, born in Big Spring in 1889, died March 6, 1892 and is buried in Big Spring, Texas.

Helen George Cowan married Roy Goodloe Thomas March 12, 1913, after graduation from National Park Seminary, near Washington, D.C. in 1912. They were parents of Dorothy Anne, Helen Edwina, Roy Goodloe, Jr., and Elizabeth (Betty.) Dorothy married Winston Lawrence Breeding of Abilene, Texas, and they have three children: Anne Elizabeth, Martha Melinda and W. Lawrence, Jr.

Helen married John Franklin Cook of Abilene, Texas and they have three children: Betty Clare, Nancy Helen and Dorothy Kathleen.

Roy, Jr., married Doris Whitely of Greensboro, NC at Alexandria, Louisiana February 13, 1943, while a Flight Officer in the U.S.A.F. He lost his life three days later while testing a P-39 plane. He was buried with military honors in Rose Hill, beside his father, who died in 1939.

Elizabeth was secretary of the War Finance Committee of Tarrant County during the war and is now with Tide Water Associated Oil Company, Houston, Texas. She is not married.

Helen Cowan Thomas is employed by the First National Bank of Fort Worth, and occupies the home purchased by her father in 1893, at 1712 Summit Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1898, William Cowan was appointed postmaster at Roanoke, a position which he held until his death in 1910. He bought a five-room house and one acre adjoining Roanoke township, where the family lived until 1915, when Ida L. Cowan built a new house on another part of the property, where she still lives. Sarah Cowan lived with her daughter, Ida, until she died in November, 1925, at the age of 91 years, ten months, retaining all her facilities until the last. She enjoyed the radio, which was in its infancy at that time, did knitting, read the papers, and entertained the Women's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church. In early youth she joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Tennessee. When she moved to Roanoke, there being no Cumberland Church, the U.S. (Old School) Presbyterians organized a church, both father and mother becoming members. Many years later a white brick building was erected on Main Street. In this church is a beautiful stained glass double window, dedicated to the Cowan family, with the name below the picture of the Shepherds and the Angels.

Alice Cowan went to visit her brother Henry in Sweetwater in 1887. There she attended high school and after teaching two years in the country, she went to Huntsville, Texas, to attend the Sam Houston Normal School, obtaining a state certificate. In 1891 she taught in the public school at Big Spring, while there she lived in the home of her brother, Sam. In 1893, she was employed as a teacher in the Midland Public Schools, where she taught until 1899, when she was elected principal of the High School at Canadian, Texas. In September, 1900, she was elected assistant principal of Sam Houston Ward School, Fort Worth, where she remained until 1908, when she resigned to marry William Burton Lewis, of Nocona, Texas. A daughter, Anna Burton Lewis, was born June 21, 1911. She was educated in the Nocona Schools, graduating in 1928, after which she attended Texas State College for Women, and State Teachers' College, Denton, Texas. On March 6, 1932 she married N. True Elkins of Nocona at Bowie, Texas. After living in Nocona two years, they moved to Pampa, Texas, where they now live. Lou Ann Elkins, their daughter, was born July 4, 1935. She is now attending high school in Pampa.

Hixon David Cowan lived on the farm with his parents until 1887 when he took off, riding his pony, Button, to visit his uncle, Jim

Grayson, at Red River Station in Montague County. After working on the farm there awhile, he went to Big Spring, where he obtained a position with the T & P Railroad. From that time on, he was a railroad employee, except that in 1898, he enlisted in the army for the Spanish American War. However, the war was over while his division was stationed in New Orleans, from where he was discharged. In 1902, he was married to Iola Anderson of Denton. They went to Conroe, where he was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad, later moving to Brownwood, where their daughter, Helen Anderson Cowan, was born, on June 19, 1907. Later they moved to Temple, Texas where they now live, and where their children, Sarah Isabel and Hixon David, Jr., were born.

Helen Anderson Cowan graduated from Temple High School and T.S.C.W., Denton, majoring in Home Economics, and was Home Demonstration Agent in Childress, later for Harris County. She was married to Sam Huggins of Childress where he was employed by West Texas Utilities at Dalhart as chief clerk. While there, Helen was instructor in High School. Sam was in the army during World War II, in the Phillipines, but has now returned to his former position.

Sarah Isabel Cowan was graduated from Temple High School and was first violinist with Civic Music Orchestra there. She attended T.S.C.W. in Denton and could have graduated with the mid-term class, but waited for some of her friends in the June class, but before that time she lost her life in an automobile accident near Greenville, and is buried in Temple.

Hixon David Cowan, Jr., attended A. & M. College and was employed as civilian instructor at Vernon, Texas, Hicks Field, (at Fort Worth) and Brady, Texas during the war: at the close of the war he was employed by American Airlines as a pilot, a position which he still holds. He married Cecil Dodson of Temple, Texas.

Ida Lee Cowan never married. She was assistant postmaster while her father was postmaster at Roanoke, and after his death she was appointed postmaster in 1910, by President Theodore Roosevelt, and still holds that position. (1946)

Clinton Anderson Cowan spent one year in Old Mexico with his brother Henry at Rosario Mine. Returning to Texas, he married Gertrude Treece in 1898. They had one son, Sam Schoolfield Cowan, who attended N.T.S.C.T. at Denton, and is now salesman for Seiberling



Rubber Company: he is married to Katherine Phelps, and they live in Memphis, Tennessee. Clinton A. Cowan was a rural mail carrier for thirty years, now retired. Gertrude Cowan died in 1913 and in 1916, Clinton A. Cowan married Bessie Harris, and they have one son, C. A. Jr., and all reside in Roanoke.

ADDITIONAL HISTORY

Three little new-comers to our family

April 20, 1947

Sarah Ann Cowan to Hixon, Jr., and Cecil Cowan

October 1947

Mary Margaret Davis to Andrew T. Davis & Florence Anna Davis

February 6, 1948

Samuel Clinton Cowan to Sam Schoolfield Cowan and Katherine Cowan

COWAN FAMILY

THE GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY December 24, 1902

William Cowan and Sarah Grayson were married at her father's plantation home in Marion County, Tennessee December 24, 1852. In 1902, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at Roanoke, Texas. Preparations for this event were made on a grand scale, to entertain the children and grandchildren of the families, who spent the night. All of the guests also stayed the next day. Extra rooms were provided at Clint's home near-by. The dining room was decorated with streamers of pink and white, attached to the four corners of the room. Garlands of mistletoe were hung in the doorways. A long table was decorated with flowers and candles. In the center was a huge three-tiered cake. Platters of roast turkey and dressing, sausage, ham, vegetables and salads were placed at either end.

Sarah, in her black silk dress, with William in his best suit, were escorted into this room to have the wedding ceremony. Those present were Joe Cowan, brother of William Cowan, who was present at the wedding in Tennessee: Sam H. Cowan and wife, Anna, and their two daughters, Florence and Helen: Alice Cowan; Hixson and wife, Ola; Ida Cowan; Clinton A. Cowan and wife, Gertie: Robert W. Walker and wife, Minnie (sister of Anna Cowan), their daughter, Bird Ames Walker; John Schoolfield and wife, Jennie (brother of Anna Cowan) (Jennie, a cousin of Sarah Cowan); W. L. George and wife, who were friends for many years.

Grace was said by Mr. George, then all sat down to the bountiful feast. A dime, a thimble, and a ring had been placed in the cake, and when it was cut, everyone was anxious to know who would get the lucky emblems. Bird Walker got the ring and it is now in the possession of Betty Thomas, daughter of Helen Cowan. Ola got the thimble, but I do not know who got the dime.

Hixson presented his father with a gold-headed cane. Alice presented gold-framed spectacles to her mother, and Ida, gold-framed spectacles to her father. Hixson now has the cane, and Ola has the thimble. Alice has one pair of spectacles, and Ida the other pair.

This celebration continued through Christmas Day.



HIKSON-GRAYSON GENEALOGY

Joining the John Sevier Expedition, leaving North Carolina and migrating to Tennessee, which was then Washington Territory, crossing the Allegheny Mountains and Walden's Ridge into Sequatchie Valley in Conestoga covered wagons drawn by six oxen each, was Joseph Hixson and his wife, Patsy, and two daughters, Nancy and Patsy. Great-grandmother Hixson sat in the front of the wagon and held a hatchet with which to fight the Indians, while Great-grandfather drove the oxen, carrying his rifle ready to protect his family from the Indians who continually followed them through the mountains.

The Sevier Expedition must have been about 1789, when the state of Tennessee was known as Washington Territory, the name was changed to State of Franklin and ceded to the U. S. in 1796, when it became the state of Tennessee, with John Sevier as governor until 1801.

William Henry Grayson had come from Maryland, where his ancestors had migrated to the colonies settled by Lord Baltimore from England. Nancy Hixson, at the age of sixteen, ran away with William H. Grayson, sitting behind him on a big black horse. They were joined in marriage by a missionary at what is now Pikeville, Tennessee. They established a home twenty miles south of this on the Sequatchie River. He was an extensive land owner, had machine shops in which wagons were made. Before the war he owned several slaves who farmed the land and worked in the shops. One slave, old Rile, was a wheelwright. Grandfather Grayson became afraid of him and sold him "down the river" for \$1,400.00. The women slaves spun and wove for both the whites and blacks. My mother, Sarah Grayson, had to learn to spin and weave along with the slaves. Mother did no housework or cooking. She taught tailoring and became an expert. I remember seeing the slave cabins on the farm in the valley near Walden's Ridge. Some of these slaves, after they had been freed in 1865, did the housework in my mother's home. Grandfather Grayson had a flour mill at the foot of the mountain. This mill was two stories high. From the door on the second floor one could walk out on top of the mountain. A huge water-wheel furnished the power for grinding the grain. There was also a saw mill in

connection with it. After the water came over the buckets on the wheel, it made a swift mountain creek into the Sequatchie River. Over the creek was built what is called a spring-house. Here was kept the butter and milk, set in shallow running water, almost ice-cold. It was my great pleasure to visit the spring-house with my grandmother. Vegetables were also kept on the shelves in this cool, shady place. Another time, I accompanied my grandfather to feed the hogs away up on the side of the mountain in a laurel thicket. He carried corn in baskets.

My grandmother cooked in and on a huge fireplace. Rods had been placed in the masonry of the chimney, and on these were hung the iron kettles. Bread was baked in big iron ovens set on the coals. My cousin, Marcella Grayson, and I spent many night at grandmother's house. The children born to them were as follows:

Pleasant, who lived to be 103 years old, a Methodist preacher.
 Eliza, who married Joe Burnett. They had 10 children. She died age 86.
 William, married Sally Cowan, sister of William Cowan (m. Sarah Grayson, this making their children double cousins)
 James, born 1832, moved to Texas in 1853, and died in 1905.
 Sarah, born in 1834, married William in 1852.
 Houston, who lived to be 80.
 Anderson, married Joyce Barber. They had five children. I remember Lawrence and Florence. They all live in the valley at the present time. Anderson died at the age of 80 years, his widow at 90.

All this family were healthy and strong - they lived largely on meat, especially mutton. They were not teetotallers, neither hard drinkers. All lived to be a ripe old age, and so far as is known, never had a case of T.B. or cancer in any of these families. They were law-abiding farmers, merchants, tradesmen, lawyers - none very rich, none very poor, all the salt of the earth. Their descendants are scattered to the four corners of the earth.

Nancy Hixon (Grayson)'s sister, Patsy, married David Ketchum who lived at Cheekville, Tennessee. He had a carding machine, where wool was made into rolls for spinning. Two of David's sons moved to

Montague County, Texas. Quincy Ketchum and Alice Cowan were childhood sweethearts. Quincy wanted to come to Texas to see Alice in 1880, but she did not encourage him - so ended the romance.

Jennie Hixon Schoolfield's father, Joseph, was a half-brother to Nancy Hixon. His wife was Jane Henniger. They located at Pikesville, Tennessee.

Joseph A. Grayson, father of William Henry Grayson (no date of birth) died in 1840. He moved from Anderson County in 1806 and entered 70 acres of land in Marion County, and married Elizabeth Brazile from Greenville, Tennessee. William Henry Grayson's sister married Jesse Shirley, who was also a Sequatchie Valley Pioneer. In her family record I find she was born in Buncombe County, N.C., and Joseph Grayson and great-grandfather also came from N.C. and we find that he was one of the state commissioners to lay out Rhone County, Tennessee. (The above is a copy of a letter from Ervin Grayson of Whitwell, Tennessee, dated April 14, 1948 to Alice Cowan Lewis.)

Grandmother Grayson, whose maiden name was Nancy Hixon, was a small woman - had blue eyes and light hair. She was very energetic, and was 82 years old when I last visited her, as told on a previous page. At that time she did all of the cooking, washing and walked 100 yards to the spring house, built out into the mountain creek to take the butter and other things which were set in the running water. She wore the traditional lace cap tied under her chin. At night she wore a real night cap, made of heavy muslin. She had her negro slaves to spin and weave all the cloth used for all the whites and blacks. There being no cotton gins, these negro women must pick the seed from the cotton, enough to fill a shoe, after supper. To tell the truth, a negro has a big foot, so there was considerable cotton in the shoe. My grandmother also spun flax as well as cotton and wool. I well remember how the flax wheel looked and where it stood in the chimney corner by the big fireplace. I never heard of any slave beatings or of them being unruly. Of course they planted and cultivated the crops of corn, tobacco, wheat, cotton, and vegetables. Many of them remained on the farm after they were granted their freedom.

Grandfather Grayson was of English descent, and was fair of skin, and had blue eyes. He was about 5 feet, 8 inches tall and rather stout. He was a wheelwright as well as a farmer. At 4 o'clock in the mornings, so my mother told me, the anvils would ring in the shops, where wagons were being made and plow-shares sharpened. Horseshoes were made here also. All of this was done away with after the war, when Grandfather divided his land among his children and moved up on the side of the mountain, where he had his grist mill, which he managed until his death, at the age of 82. At this time, Grandmother went to live with Uncle Anderson (Doc) Grayson. They are buried in Burnett Cemetery, which is one of the oldest cemeteries in the state.

I well remember attending my first school at Burnett School near there, in the old log building, my teacher being my cousin, Sally Cowan, who lived in our home. I was five years old, and walked 3 miles to school. I also remember playing Hide and Seek over some of the houses built over the graves in the cemetery. A big chinkapin tree grew nearby, from which we picked up nuts. Water was brought from a spring near the foot of the mountain a mile away. We kids sure did loiter on the way to the spring and back. I also remember peeping through the cracks between the logs of the schoolhouse.

We know of a Benjamin Grayson from Maryland, of Lord Baltimore's Colony, who died in 1757, and was married to Susan Nonare. They were parents of William Grayson, born 1736, died 1790, who went to Tennessee - maybe our Joseph Grayson was a descendant of this Benjamin Grayson. A William Grayson was governor of Maryland in 1836. William is an outstanding name in both the Grayson and Cowan families, as is the name of "Sarah."

WILLIAM HENRY GRAYSON'S BIBLE

William Henry Grayson	Nov. 2 1799 - May 9, 1879
	m. Sep. 11 1820
Nancy Hixson	Jul. 22 1799 - Nov 10 1881

Children:

Pleasant Grayson	Aug. 3 1821 -	1924
Louiza Grayson	Oct. 12 1823 -	1907
William H. Grayson	Apr. 12 1826 -	1909
Patrick Grayson	Sep. 4 1828 -	
James M. Grayson	May 16 1831 -	1908
*Sarah Caroline Grayson	Jan. 24 1834 -	Nov. 7 1925
Joseph A. Grayson, II	Apr. 24 1839	1839
Anderson C. Grayson	Dec. 23 1841 -	1934

RECOLLECTIONS OF MY UNCLE PLEASANT GRAYSON

Pleasant was the oldest son of Henry and Nancy Grayson. He, like all the other sons, was a blacksmith. I remember going to his house across the field from our house. His wife, I think the fourth one, had died, leaving him with five little children. One of these was Anise, who came to Texas with us in 1878 - he lived with my family two years. The Indian Territory was a new country so he went there to make a fortune. Some years later we learned that he was dead.

Back to Uncle Pleas. - he was a soldier in the Southern Army, and on the march from Nashville, Tennessee with Beauregard, he was a cook. Rice was about the only food they had, so Uncle Pleas put about a tubful of it on to cook. As the company moved on, the rice boiled up and over and he had to dip it out into other vessels. By the time they bivouaced for the night, all were full of rice. Uncle Pleas was a Methodist preacher. One time he told his congregation that if he ever went to Hell, he would climb out "on a ladder of red hot razors, yes sir, on a ladder of red hot razors." He lived to be 103 years old, and could climb on a horse bareback and ride across the mountain in his later years. He was married for the fifth time at the age of 97.

41.

A VISIT TO GRANDFATHER GRAYSON'S HOME AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN

Told by Alice, then 11 years old

Before leaving Tennessee for Texas in November 1878, Mother put Hixson and me on a horse and sent us to Grandfather's house for a farewell visit. We went up the big road for about four miles, then turned toward the mountain two miles away. This was a narrow road which wound in and out around small farms and by a small family cemetery, where we got squeamish until we got by that. Then we came to the mountain creek which flowed through the canyon back of Grandfather Grayson's house. Uncle Doc lived just across this creek. We stopped there for dinner, before going on to Grandfather's in the afternoon, spending the night and returning home in the afternoon.

Grandfather lived at the foot of Walden's Ridge, which rose abruptly nearly a mile high, and was covered with laurel so dense that only paths were made by small animals. Part of the house extended over the canyon. The chicken houses and pig pens were perched on the brink. One pen of hogs was a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile up the canyon, fenced in for pasture. Grandmother cooked in a big fireplace, where a rod had been placed in the masonry, on which iron kettles were hung. Bread was baked in an oven set on coals. Grandmother placed a lid over it and then covered it with coals. She was a small woman, weighing 125 pounds. I watched her go into a big room that contained big jars of honey, barrels of apples, bags of dried fruit, sacks of dried beans, strings of peppers and many other things that I cannot name. We had supper by firelight, the table was cleared, dishes put into corner cupboards. Then Hixson and I were hustled off to bed in the spare bedroom. Next morning, we went up the side of the mountain and fed an old sow with young pigs. After eating dinner, we mounted old Fanny and went back home. That was the last time I saw my Grandfather and Grandmother, as we moved to Texas soon after that. They died in a few years at the same place, Grandfather first, at the age of 84 and Grandmother at the age of 82, and both are buried in the cemetery at Burnett Schoolhouse. Mother was sent a trunk full of Grandmother's clothes, and I have a quilt partly made of one of her dresses.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FROM 1776 TO 1876

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A LONESOME RIDE

I remember riding alone on horseback three miles and crossing the Sequatchie River at Uncle Patrick's mill, going to visit Grandmother. It was a lonesome road across a swamp and I was scared - afraid I would not get there before dark. This Wild Goose Swamp was an eerie swag and slough which covered many acres in the bend of the river. Hoot owls were flying around when I reached this swamp, almost dark. I put the horse into a gallop and reached Grandmother's house just about dark. I stayed until the morning of the second day. Why my mother allowed me to make this trip I cannot understand.

GOING TO HAVE OUR PICTURES TAKEN

There was a traveling photographer at Cheekville, about five miles further down the valley. Mother put me on old Fancy with Hixson, four and a half years old, riding behind, and sent us to have tintypes made. The man posed us with me standing and Hixson sitting with one leg crossed over the other one. I have one original picture, and Hixson has the other.

July 2, 1957

THE DAY I WAS NINETY

Was awakened at 6 A.M. by a lively mocking bird in a cedar tree near my window in Roanoke, Texas. Cooked and ate my breakfast at 7 A.M., listened to the Sun-Up news until 8, when a friend came for a short visit and to pick up some magazines which we share together. At 8:45, Clint brought the mail. We talked a few minutes, opened the birthday cards from Anna Burton and Lou Ann, cards from Betty, Helen Cook, cards from friends in Roanoke. At 9:30, Helen and Bing came bringing gifts. Had a nice visit with them in their car - served frosted cokes and gossiped about our family. Mrs. Jenkins came, bringing a gift - we all visited some more in the car. 10:30, cooked and ate lunch all by myself. Time is now 12 noon.



12:30, have just heard the Hi-Noon News on TV. A very busy morning. Time for an afternoon Siesta.

Siesta over - 2 P.M. Read some in the Saturday Evening Post, drank a glass of iced tea - did some cross-stitch on tea towels. Temperature 102

6 P.M. Had visitors from across the street. All sat and talked a lot on the front porch.

8 P.M. Omega came to see \$64,000.00 Question on TV.

To bed at 9:30, calling it a day, and that is what happened to me on the day I was ninety. Sweet Dreams.

Alice Cowan Lewis

Born in Tenn. July 2, 1867.

1. _____ Cowan) both came from Ireland to Pennsylvania in 1650
 m. _____) and died of black plague
 - A. George Cowan lost from raft? rumored to have settled in Oregon
 - B. Sam Cowan
 - m. _____
 1. Marilda Cowan
 - m. Whit Phillips
 - a. Spence Phillips
 - m. Minnie Howard
 - b. Pearl Phillips
 - c. a boy
 - C. William Cowan
 - m. Cynthia Morgan of Kentucky
 1. Seabird (or Sebert?) Cowan
 - m. Elizabeth Ashburn
 - a. Mary Cowan
 - b. Cynthia Cowan
 - c. Virginia Cowan
 - d. Russell Cowan
 - e. Mattie Cowan
 - f. Thompson Cowan
 - m. Alice Piner
 1. Alice Cowan
 2. Finis Cowan
 - m. Kathleen Hardewicke
 - a. Alice Cowan
 - 2 Sarah (Sally) Cowan
 - m. William Grayson, 1826
 - a. Patrick Grayson
 - 3 Sam Cowan
 - m. Polly Majors
 4. Reuben Cowan (d. aged 17 years)
 5. William Cowan b. Oct 7 1832 d. 4 Nov 1910
 - m. Sarah Caroline Grayson b. 1832
 - a. William Henry Cowan b. 1856
 - m. Elizabeth Hudson
 1. Minnie d. in Tenn.
 2. Frank Cowan d. in Mexico
 - m. _____
 - a. a son
 3. Leslie Cowan
 4. Ethel Cowan (last heard of in W. Texas)
 - b. Samuel Houston Cowan
 - m. Anna Jane Taliaferro Schoolfield b. 1860
 1. Florence Sarah Cowan b. 1884
 - m. John William Scheuber
 - a. Sam Cowan Scheuber b. 1912
 - m. Jean Henderson Tupper (divorced)
 - m. Elizabeth
 - b. Florence Anna Scheuber b. 1915
 - m. Andrew T. Davis (died)
 - a. Mary Margaret Davis b. 1947
 - m. Richard Mildner
 - m. Jack McClelland
2. Mabel Perry Cowan 1889-1892
3. Helen George Cowan b. 1892



Cont. - children of Willaim Cowan & Cynthia Morgan

5. Wm. Cowan & Sarah Grayson (Cont.)

b. Samuel Houston Cowan & Anna Schoolfield (Cont.)

3. Helen George Cowan b. 1892

m. Roy Goodloe Thomas

a. Dorothy Anne Thomas b. 1913

m. Winston Lawrence Breeding

1. Anne Elizabeth Breeding 1934

m. Rodger Earl Colbert

a. Gregory Brent Colbert

b. Mark Duncan Colbert

c. Karen Anne Colbert

d. Rodger Stephen Colbert

e. Amy Elizabeth Colbert

2. Martha Melinda Breeding 1941

m. Elbert Eugene Reid

a. Tracy Anne Reid

b. Timothy Jay Reid

3. Winston Lawrence Breeding, Jr. 1944

m. Dayna Lynn Dyer

a. James Michael Breeding 6 Dec 1968

m. 2nd Charles Wright McCollum

m. 3rd Paul Graves

b. Helen Edwina Thomas 1916

m. John Franklin Cook 1909

1. Betty Clare Cook 31 Mar 1936

m. William Harrison Welsch (div.)

a. Wm. Lawrence Welsch 15 Dec 1953

b. John Harrison Welsch 20 Feb 1955

c. Michael Roy Welsch 12 Nov 1957

d. Robert Frederick " 10 Jan 1962

m. 2nd William Moffatt 1936

2. Nancy Helen Cook 3 Oct 1937

m. Philip Wayne Ward

a. Christopher Thomas Ward 14 Feb 1959

b. Stephen Michael Ward 1 Jun 1960

c. Ivy Lynn Ward 20 Apr 1964

d. Andrew Lindsay Ward 4 Oct 1965

3. Dorothy Kathleen Cook 11 Oct 1944

m. Thomas Edward Lawrence Logan 14 Oct '44

a. John Franklin Logan 19 Feb 1969

c. Roy Goodloe Thomas (killed 3 days after marr.)

m. Doris Marlowe Whitley

m 2nd Ed Wynn

1. Margaret Lujean Wynn 17 Jun 1960

2. Edmund R. Wynn, Jr. 10 Jan 1962

d. Elizabeth Thomas 10 Oct 1924

m. Sam Henry LaCroix

1. Thomas Henry LaCroix 1951

2. Stanley Amos LaCroix 1953

3. Robert William LaCroix 1957



Cont. - children of William Cowan & Cynthia Morgan

5. William Cowan & Sarah Grayson (Cont.)

c. James Cowan (died age 2 years) 1861-1863

d. Alice Jane Cowan 1866

m. William Burton Lewis (m. 1st Amanda Grayson)

1. Anna Burton Lewis

m. Neal True Elkins

a. Lou Ann Elkins

m. Richard William Walker

1. Edward Walker

2. Neal Walker

e. Hixson David Cowan 1871

m. Iola Anderson

1. Helen Anderson Cowan

m. Sam Huggins

2. Sarah Isobel Cowan (died in college)

3. Hixson David Cowan, Jr.

m. Cecil Dodson

a. Sarah Ann Cowan

m. O. Seaman

1. Kari Seaman

f. Ida Melissa "Lee" Cowan 1874

g. Clinton Anderson Cowan 1876

m. Gertrude Treese

1. Sam Schoolfield Cowan

m. Laura Katherine Phelps

a. Sam Clinton Cowan

b. Howard Houston Cowan

m. Bessie Harris

1. Clinton Anderson Cowan, Jr.

6. Esther "Polly" Cowan b. 3 May 1834 d. 27 Jul 1897 m. 1865
m. Pleasant Marion Prior

7. Benjamin Franklin "Doc" Cowan b. 1842
m. Celia Condra

a. John Cowan

b.

c.

d.

e.

8. Joseph Cowan 1848-1905
m. 1st Sally Ann Condra (died)
m. 2nd Fannie Sams Pressley



A. Joseph Hixson

m.

1. Joseph Hixson

m. Jane Henniger

a. Jane (Jennie) Hixson

m. John Robertson Schoolfield

1. Joseph Henniger Schoolfield

2. Oliver Perry Schoolfield

m. Ollie Peterson

a. Oliver Perry Schoolfield (died infant)

b. Robert Hugh Schoolfield (died infant)

c. Dan Roberson Schoolfield

3. John Ralph Schoolfield

m. Bessie Wythe

a. Joseph Ralph Schoolfield (drowned)

b. James Schoolfield

c. Jennie Belle Schoolfield

4. H. Clay Schoolfield

m. Ruth Boyd

a. John Boyd Schoolfield

m. Dovey _____

1.

2.

3.

b. Mary Lynn Schoolfield

m.

1.

c. Katherine Anne Schoolfield

5. Emmett Charles Schoolfield

m. Blanche Featherstone

a. Charles Featherstone Schoolfield

m. Billye _____

b. Henniger Hixson

m. Patsy

1. Patsy Hixson

m. David Ketchum

a. Quincy Ketchum

b. another son

2. Nancy Hixson b. 1799

m. William Henry Grayson b. 1799

a. Pleasant Grayson b. 1821

m.

1. four children

b. Louiza (Eliza) Grayson 1823

m. Joseph Burnett

1. ten children

c. William Henry Grayson 1826

m. Sally Cowan

1. Patrick Grayson

d. Patrick Grayson 1828

e. James M. Grayson 1831

f. Sarah Caroline Grayson 1834

m. WILLIAM COWAN

1. William Henry Cowan 1856

m. Elizabeth Hudson

Cont.

- f. Sarah Caroline Grayson b. 1834
 - m. WILLIAM COWAN
 - 1. William Henry Cowan 1856
 - m. Elizabeth Hudson
 - a. Minnie Cowan
 - b. Frank Cowan
 - c. Leslie Cowan
 - d. Ethel Cowan
 - 2. Sam Houston Cowan 1858
 - m. Anna Jane Taliaferro Schoolfield b. 1860
 - a. Florence Sarah Cowan b. 14 Aug 1884
 - m. John William Scheuber
 - 1. Sam Cowan Scheuber b. 12 Dec 1912
 - m. 1st Jean Henderson Tupper (div.)
 - m. 2nd Elizabeth
 - 2. Florence Anna Scheuber 29 Oct 1915
 - m. Andrew T. Davis
 - a. Mary Margaret Davis 22 Oct 1947
 - m. Richard Mildner
 - m. 2nd Jack McClellan
 - b. Mabel Perry Cowan 1889-1892
 - c. Helen George Cowan 18 Jun 1892
 - m. Roy Goodloe Thomas 8 May 189
 - 1. Dorothy Anne Thomas 6 Dec 1913
 - m. Winston Lawrence Breeding 22 Feb 1910
 - a. Anne Elizabeth Breeding 3 Aug 1934
 - m. Roger Earl Colbert 20 Sep 193
 - 1. Gregory Brent Colbert 27 Jul 51
 - 2. Mark Duncan Colbert 4 Jun 56
 - 3. Karen Anne Colbert 28 Dec 57
 - 4. Rodger Stepher " 26 Jul 60
 - 5. Amy Elizabeth " 8 Apr 64
 - b. Martha Melinda Breeding 27 Feb 41
 - m. Elbert Eugene Reid 21 Sep 37
 - 1. Tracy Anne Reid 15 May 60
 - 2. Timothy Jay Reid 14 Apr 61
 - c. Winston Lawrence Breeding 2 Nov 44
 - m. Dayna Lynn Dyer 26 Sep 44
 - 1. James Michael " 6 Dec 68
 - 2. Helen Edwina Thomas 29 Aug 16
 - m. John Franklin Cook 22 Sep 09
 - a. Betty Clare Cook 31 Mar 36
 - m. Wm. Harrison Welsch 27 Feb 3
 - 1. Wm. Lawrence " 15 Dec 53
 - 2. John Harrison " 22 Feb 55
 - 3. Michael Roy " 2 Nov 57
 - 4. Robert Frederick " 10 Jan 62
 - m. Wm. Charles Moffatt 17 Apr 36
 - 1. Michael Roland " 18 Jan 60
 - (ch. of 1st wife Imo G. Knox)
 - b. Nancy Helen Cook 3 Oct 37
 - m. Philip Wayne Ward 10 Jun 3
 - 1. Christopher Thomas " 14 Feb 59
 - 2. Stephen Michael Ward 1 Jun 60
 - 3. Ivy Lynn Ward 20 Apr 64
 - 4. Andrew Lindsay Ward 4 Oct 65

f. Cont., children of Sarah Grayson & William COWAN

2. Cont. Children of Sam Cowan & Anna Schoolfield
Cont.

c. Helen George Cowan m. Roy Goodloe Thomas

2. Helen Edwina Thomas m. John Franklin Cook

c. Dorothy Kathleen Cook b. 3 Oct 1944

m. Thomas Edward Lawrence Logan 14 Oct 1944

1. John Franklin Logan 19 Feb 1969

3. Roy Goodloe Thomas, Jr. 12 Jan 1919 d. 16 Feb 1945

m. Doris Whiteley (widowed 3 days after marriage)

m. 2nd Edmund R. Wynn

a. Margaret Lujean Wynn 17 Jun 1960

b. Edmund R. Wynn, Jr. 10 Jan 1962

3. James Cowan 1861-1863

4. Alice Jane Peacock Cowan 1866

m. William Burton Lewis

a. Anna Burton Lewis

m. Neal True Elkins

1. Lou Ann Elkins

m. Richard William Walker

a. Edward Walker

b. Neal Walker

4 Jul 19__

5. Hixson David Cowan 1871-

m. Iola Anderson

a. Helen Anderson Cowan

m. Sam Huggins

b. Sarah Isobel Cowan (d. in college)

c. Hixson David Cowan, Jr.

m. Cecil Dodson

1. Sarah Ann Cowan

m. LeRoy Odes Seaman

a. Kari Seaman

6. Ida Melissa "Lee" Cowan 1874-1971

7. Clinton Anderson Cowan

m. Gertrude Treese

a. Sam Schoolfield Cowan

m. Laura Katherine Phelps

1. Sam Clinton Cowan

2. Howard Houston Cowan

m. 2nd Bessie Harris

a. Clinton Anderson Cowan, Jr.

ANCESTORS OF THE JAMES COWAN, SR.

of

Berkeley Co., Va. 1774-1800

and

Warren Co., Ohio 1800-1828

by

77 / 98, Andrew M. Cowan

August 1976

James Cowan, Sr. was born in 1745, married Mary Russell and after the death of his father and division of his inherited estate, moved his family in 1800 from their farm six miles south of Harpers Ferry in Virginia to the newly-opened Northwest Territory. They traveled rough roads to Pittsburgh, down the Ohio River by flatboat, by wagon through Cincinnati, then 400 people, and north into the wilderness to become early settlers at Bedell's Station. Among the possessions that traveled with them along this arduous route were papers then almost 40 years old, that formed an important link to the past, a heritage that told where the family had lived in early days.

These papers are the starting point in searching for the ancestors of James Cowan, Sr. and are described by Julia Sellers in a Chronological Genealogy of James Cowan, Sr. and His Descendants compiled in 1911-1919. (6)

In this genealogy Julia Sellers noted:

The parentage of James Cowan, Sr. and that of his wife Mary, we do not know about. On the top shelf of the big cupboard which was in grandmother Jane White McPherson Cowan's room, to be more definite, it was one of the smaller of the above four rooms mentioned, there were found some old parchment papers that have

been handed down from generation to generation. One, a will which was made September 18, 1764 by Robert Shields, living in the township of Grenech, County of Morris, Western Division of the Province of New Jersey. In this will he speaks of my sister, Jane Cowan, wife of John Cowan; Another, a deed made the 26th year of the reign of George II over Great Britain about the year 1753. It was from George Silverthorn, living in the Province of New Jersey to John Cowan, who lived in the township of Bethlehem, County of Hunterdon, Province of West New Jersey, one hundred and five acres near Spruce Run.

Question: Why were these old parchment papers brought to the new west with the Cowans if they did not belong to their ancestors?

Perhaps those old parchment papers were of a reminder of the hard struggle with rocky unproductive land in New Jersey and again in Virginia contrasting the vision of fertile untouched land in Ohio More probable, however, they were just early evidence of a later finely developed Cowan trait to preserve. In any case, they are valuable to us as the necessary clue to discover something of James Cowan, Sr.'s ancestors.

It is documented beyond question, in the deed books of Berkeley County, West Virginia that James Cowan, Sr.'s father's name was John. (1) The records show that John Cowan in 1774 bought 311 acres of land on Cattail Run in Berkeley County, Virginia (now West Virginia). His son, James, heir-at-law, divided the land in 1786 after the father's death, with his two brothers, John and David. Thus, John Cowan and Jane, his wife (of the old parchment papers) were in all likelihood the parents of James Cowan, Sr.

In New Jersey Archives, first series, Abstracts of Wills, Vol. III, 1751-1760 (7) is found the Robert Shields will. In it Robert Shields left

money to his sister, Jane Cowan. John Cowan, along with Robert Shield's wife and Francis McShane were named executors of the estate. Other names mentioned (which establish friends, neighbors, and relatives at that time) were Robert Clifford, Robert Gordon, Archibald Stewart, Thomas Little, and Thomas Flemen.

Among Julia Sellers' papers is a typed copy of the deed to John Cowan's Spruce Run farm. The survey is described and ownership traced back from George Silverthorn to a part of the 268 acres of Thomas Silverthorn, his brother, 208 acres of which were a purchase from Joseph Howell of Kingwood Township. The remainder was part of a purchase by Thomas Silverthorn of unlocated land from John Reading, who had acquired the land from Isaac Hutchinson of Trenton in 1750. The starting point of the survey was a "dead Chestnut tree now fallen down near or in the King's Road leading from Muskonetcong River to Trenton." With this information and the very great assistance of D. Stanton Hammond, Historian of the New Jersey Genealogical Society, the location and boundaries of the Cowan farm have been definitely established on Spruce Run (8) near what is now the Borough of Glen Gardner. Hammond's land ownership maps describe the boundaries. Unfortunately, early land records in this area are incomplete and difficult to trace. A letter from the Archives and History Bureau of the New Jersey State Library indicates that no deeds are listed for John Cowan either as grantee or grantor. This is not surprising, however, in that at some periods deeds were not properly recorded for a variety of reasons. Mr. Kenn Stryker-Rodda, New Jersey genealogist and historian, states that--

"Deeds were seldom filed or recorded in New Jersey until it became necessary to obtain a mortgage or sell the property. There is a dead period from 1773 to 1785 and a definite period from 1776 to 1785 when nothing was recorded". (5)

It would be most valuable to locate the deed in which John Cowan sold his farm on Spruce Run. It might show about when he moved his family to Virginia and possibly whether his wife was alive at that time. Hammond shows likely ownership of the land in 1812 by Buskirk or Van Buskirk. A grant either to or from Buskirk may contain valuable information about the Cowans, particularly when the Cowan farm was sold. Perhaps some dilligent searcher undoubtedly will uncover this record in the future.

In James P. Snell's History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, 1881, is a record containing the name John Cowan as a commissioner of Bethlehem Township dated March 1765. It reads as follows:

SETTLING ACCOUNTS BETWEEN BETHLEHEM AND ALEXANDRIA

"We, the Commissioners of Bethlehem and Alexandria Townships having met at the Hickory Tavern and settled the accounts depending before the division of Bethlehem, as may more at large appear on the opposite side.

"Witness our hands this 16th day of March, 1765.

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| "John Hackett, | John Shippey, |
| "Jno. Emley, | John Cowan, |
| "David Reynolds, | Henry Stoll, |
| "Robt. Johnston, | Benjamin Brunson, |
| "John Rockhill, | Ephraim Drake" |

The "opposite side" referred to above is an account with Joseph Beavers, one of the overseers of the poor for 1765, and reads as follows:

1765, March 16

| | £ | S. | d |
|---|----|-----|-----|
| By cash paid Benjamin Opdycke and John Dusenberry after the division of Bethlehem..... | 28 | 18 | 11 |
| By cash paid William Silverthorn, one of the overseers of Bethlehem..... | 11 | 3 | 7 |
| By John Baker's note of hand delivered to Benjamin Opdycke, one of the overseers of Alexandria..... | 5 | ... | ... |
| | 45 | 2 | 6 |
| Balance remaining in the hands of Joseph Beavers, and due the overseers of Alexandria..... | 54 | 8 | 3 |
| | 99 | 10 | 9 |

John Cowan evidently was a man of some responsibility in dealing with such complicated matters as division and administration of a township.

Other bits and pieces from various records in the New Jersey Archives Abstract of Wills (7) establish that there was a Cowan family in Hunterdon County, New Jersey at an early time, perhaps somewhat before 1735.

Robert Cowan was a witness to the will of John Compton in Hopewell Township, Hunterdon County, in 1759.

John Cowan is listed among those to whom debts were due in the inventory of the settlement of Elizabeth Middleton's estate in November 1740.

John Cowan was the administrator of the will of Robert Tees of Bethlehem Hunterdon County, March 31, 1735. Witnesses were Andrew Lyttle and James Cowan.

It is interesting to speculate on what the relationship might have been between John, Robert and James Cowan in Hunterdon County, New Jersey and what their possible connections were with James Cowan, Sr.

The Cowan family, however, were in Hunterdon County in 1735 and were very early settlers in that county. These recorded names were undoubtedly those of our ancestors and the ancestors of James Cowan, Sr. From where did they come to New Jersey?

A book by Peter O. Wacker entitled The Musconetcong Valley of New Jersey (2) gives a detailed description of the pioneer agricultural settlements in New Jersey from about 1729 until 1790. This account is of particular interest because it deals with the specific region where John Cowan's farm near Spruce Run is located.

Although there are indications that agricultural settlements began as early as 1710, the strongest evidence is that the earliest farms were established about 1717.

Major routeways of the first settlers into the Muskonetcong Valley and the Highlands area of New Jersey included the Old York Road leading north from Philadelphia, and Malayelick Path leading north from Trenton

and crossing the Old York Road at Ringos, the trails leading west and north along the South Branch of the Raritan from New Brunswick, and the various paths called the "Minisink Trail" leading northwest from the settlements of Elizabeth, Newark and Bergen.

A large number of Ulster Scots, or as they are generally known in the United States, Scotch-Irish, began to arrive in Philadelphia between the years 1710 and 1720 and thereafter. Although the general movement of these pioneers was west and south from southeastern Pennsylvania, many may be traced northward into Bucks and Northhampton Counties in Pennsylvania, and into present Hunterdon and Warren Counties, New Jersey. The likely route of the Scotch-Irish into New Jersey was by way of Old York Road from Philadelphia, then on the trails northward into west Jersey. This is indicated by the Reverend William Frazer's complaining in 1768... "The Dissenters have now got such a footing here (Amwell Township) especially Presbyterians," that they had three places of worship within ten miles of his Episcopal Church. The general absence of New England stock in West New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania eases the identification of Presbyterian churches as being only those associated with Scotch-Irish population movements. In Warren County, New Jersey "they were the founders of all the early Presbyterian churches in the county".

There seems to have been a movement of Scotch-Irish up the Raritan Valley, but their origins and numerical strength are unknown. In the case of movement northward from Philadelphia, there is better evidence. The movement was rapid, as is indicated by the fact that Scotch-Irish

Presbyterian congregations had been organized at Tinicum and at Durham, Bucks County, by 1739. Also the minutes of the Presbytery of New Brunswick in 1739 contain "a supplication for supplies of preaching in Mr. Barber's neighborhood near Musconnekunk." This apparently was a congregation made up of Scottish and Scotch-Irish settlers. Their church was located a short distance from Bloomsbury on the Musconetcong, or near Asbury and was built of logs probably about 1740. One source indicates this church was functioning in 1738. The church would have been within 6 or 8 miles of the Cowan Farm near Spruce Run purchased in 1753.

The pioneer population of much of Northern New Jersey was quite a polyglot one and indeed, the local historians have been most eager to accentuate the polygenetic nature of their subjects. Snell, in History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, states:

"no county (Hunterdon) in the State had so mixed a population, composed, as it was of Huguenots, Hollanders, Germans, Scotch-Irish, English and native Americans."

Even so there is good reason to assume that our ancestors were of Scotch-Irish origin. Julia Sellers referred to James Cowan, Sr. as being of Irish descent. Her source of information is not known but may have been perhaps family tradition passed down from earlier generations. In any case, it is a good assumption that she was correct, that our ancestors came from Northern Ireland and were what became known in America as Scotch-Irish. That term refers to people of Scottish origin who had been settled in the northern part of Ireland beginning in 1606.

Hugh Montgomery and James Hamilton were given large acreages in Counties Down and Antrim by King James I and by 1606 had begun to induce tenants and other Scots from the southwestern regions to come over as farmer-settlers. A population of about eight thousand within ten years of the initial settlement was attracted to these colonies.

As a part of the "Plantation of Ulster" in 1611, other grants were made to Scottish "undertakers". These undertakers were to plant their estates with protestant farmers from either Scotland or England. King James had explicitly limited grants to only Scots from the Lowlands and had excluded Highlanders from the Plantation. Of the six counties of the Plantation, Donegal and Tyrone were given almost wholly to Scots; Armagh and Derry were prevaillingly English; Fermanagh and Davan showed both Scottish and English influence. Down and Antrim, though not part of the Plantation, contained very successful Scottish colonies.

The Scottish settlers had come in largest numbers from Galloway, that region of the southwest which included the shires of Ayr, Dumfries, Renfrew, Dumbarton. Lanark County around Edinburgh also contributed many of the colonists and smaller numbers came from the district lying between Aberdeen and Inverness.

Although there were times of struggle and discouragement, the "Plantation of Ulster" succeeded because of the persistence and industry of the Scots in the region. The Scotch-Irish were overwhelmingly Scottish in ancestry and Presbyterian in faith. Practically no inter-marriage occurred with the native Irish because of wide cultural differences and the colonists retained their distinctive identity.

In 1717 there began large migrations of the Scotch-Irish to America. There were a number of reasons for the Migration and these are explored in detail by Leyburn (3). The most immediate economic cause that stimulated the first great migration of 1717 was "rack-renting", the practice of a landlord's raising the rent when a lease on his land had expired. The practice became common with the expiration of thousands of leases during the second and third decades of the eighteenth century. Farmers felt a sense of injury and resisted what they felt was an outrageous departure from traditional practice. Many of them thus began to choose to go to America. There were five major tides of emigration in 1717-18, 1725-20, 1740-41, 1754-55 and 1771-75.

If our Cowan ancestors were already in New Jersey by 1735, we can focus our interest on the first two of these migrations.

The first migration in 1717-18 was significant as a path-opener, showing the way for others to come. It followed years of drought, but even bad crops and high prices would not have been enough to make these people move if not goaded by rack-renting. Five thousand or so left in 1717. Many hundreds arrived that year in Philadelphia "12 or 13 sayle of ships and a swarm of people". To New England ports between 1714 and 1720 came 55 ships from Ireland one with 200 passengers.

The second wave in 1725-29 was so large than even the English Parliament became concerned, and appointed a commission to investigate the departures that threatened the loss of the entire protestant element in Ulster. (3) The swarms of people were so great that Secretary Logan

of the Pennsylvania province wrote "It looks as if Ireland is to send all its inhabitants hither, for last week (in 1729) not less than six ships arrived, and every day, two or three arrive also. The common fear is that if they thus continue to come they will make themselves proprietors of the province. It is strange that they thus crowd where they are not wanted... The Indians themselves are alarmed at the swarms of strangers, and we are afraid of a breach between them - for the Irish are very rough to them". (3)

Three Scotch-Irish Cowan families that emigrated to America in the 1720's have been traced by John K. Fleming. (4) Although careful study of Fleming's book does not reference any direct connection with the New Jersey ancestors of James Cowan, Sr., there may certainly have been an individual who moved first in that direction. Emigrants were four brothers, David, Hugh, John and William in 1720. A short time later, Robert Cowan emigrated. Then in 1726, seven brothers came from Ireland. They were Andrew, David, James, John, Matthew, Samuel and William Cowan. All of the families traced by Fleming came to Pennsylvania. Some settled there, others moved on to North Carolina. The citations as to the origin of these three branches are sketchy. The four brothers are documented in genealogical records of Mrs. Evelyn King Sheets which is quoted--- "Hugh Cowan, a native of Newry, County Down, Ireland, emigrated to America between 1717 and 1720 with three brothers, David, William, and John. They settled first in Pennsylvania. Hugh established himself permanently in what is now Sadsbury Township". No other authority is given to document the emigration.

For Robert Cowan, the authority cited as Wiley, Samuel T., Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Chester Co., Pa. from which Fleming quotes as saying, "The Cowan family is of Irish Extraction. The paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch, whose name was also Robert, came from the North of Ireland at an early day and settled in Sadsbury Township, Chester County, Pa...."

Fleming cites a rather definite statement from Florence Wilson Houston, Marwell History and Genealogy that the seven Cowan brothers came from Newry, County Down, Ireland with the Walkers and Houstons in about 1726. This reference states that the Walkers left in May 1726 on a vessel commanded by Richard Walker and landed in Maryland on August 2nd.

There does not seem to be a stray Cowan among all of this bunch referred to above that could have been a New Jersey ancestor of James Cowan, Sr.

The task, therefore, of tracing the New Jersey ancestors of James Cowan, Sr. from the lowlands of Scotland going back to the several generations of Ulster and then to their emigration to America is a formidable one. The trail will be very difficult to reconstruct with documented evidence.

However, records are continuing to become more readily available and access to them easier. The search for information about our ancestors remains a challenge and the discovery of each small piece of the puzzle will give great reward and immense satisfaction.

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Book 1, p. 6

| | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------|
| COWEN, Hannah
(Carver?) | Elijah Philips | |
| p. 11
COWEN, John | Rachel McCutcheon | 9 Jan 1792 |
| p. 11
COWEN, Margaret | Isaac Nickerson | 1 Oct 1790 |
| p. 13
COWEN, Mary | William Mitchell | 29 Mar 1792 |
| p. 24
COWAN, William | Mary Steel | 9 Jan 1794 |
| p. 25
COWAN, Hugh | Margaret Buckhannon | 9 Oct 1794 |
| p. 26
COWAN, Hugh | Rachel Brackenridge | 2 Apr 1795 |
| p. 27
COWAN, Elizabeth | George Brackenridge | 3 Mar 1796 |
| p. 34
COWAN, Catherine | John Brown | 10 Nov 1797 |
| Book 2, p. 9
COWAN, James | Nancy Kincade | 18 Jun 1801 |
| p. 20
COWAN, Ann | Joseph Patton | 13 Sep 1802 |
| p. 30
COWIN, David | Jane Steel | 14 May 1807 |
| p. 55
COWAN, Elizabeth | William Black | 8 Jan 1815 |
| p. 85
COWAN, Elizabeth | Moses Glenn | 9 Feb 1825 |
| p. 88
COWAN, Jane | Burton Talton | 30 Jan 1825 |
| p. 90
COWAN, Edward | Polly Asby | 28 Apr 1825 |
| Book 3, p. 308
COWAN, Margaret Jane | George Wishard | 15 Dec 1891 |





